The coins on the Crosby heliotype Plate II are too light and have insufficient contrast. The label reading " PLATE II " slopes down to the right and was straightened for later prints. The margins of this print are full and not cut down for the printed parts or for the bound volumes.

REJECTED CROSBY PLATE IV

This state of Plate IV has the coins identified by separate printed labels pasted upon the background before the photograph was exposed. The plate number and other text are prepared in the same manner. This practice was used in the preparation of Plates II and III. On some exposures these labels were unreadable and such plates were rejected and not used. Their original wide margins remain.

To improve Plate IV the label for the plate number was moved out of the photo area and pasted into the top margin but the pasted in coin labels and other text were removed. Then the photo was exposed, following which the coin numbers and other text were printed onto the exposed sheet. Finally all pasted on labels were eliminated and the plate number, coin numbers and other text were printed onto the exposed sheet.

These changes required the height of the photographic portion of the sheet to be shortened about one centimeter to give adequate space for the plate number printed in the top margin.

The bound volumes contain the above different states of Plate IV except that none seem to contain the original rejected plate with unreadable labels.

For 1997 NLG Basb
COAC talk of Eric P. Newman

My topic is the 1804 US dollar. Enough bas already been written about the 1804 Dollar. The 1804 balf dollar is unique or nearly so and has been authenticated by the great numismatic authority B. Max Mehl. The fact that it has an altered date sbould not affect its rarity because a genuine die for the 1804 half dollar was actually cut and was never used until it was genuinely overdated by punching a 5 over the 4 to make the 1805 over 1804 balf.
The importance of a unique altered coin is precarious because a Peanut Gallery mint could make an 1804 balf dollar and the purchaser could bave Smith of Ann Street in New York City remove the word COPY whicbever side of the coin it was on. A sliding scale of rarity could then be developed beginning with N.C. zero (Non-Collectible) and running up to N.C. 200 (Nearly Common). When sucb a coin is slabbed it could be graded minus 63 or minus 60 depending on wbether you are buying or selling.

If you have any questions, feel free to answer them.

Eric P. Newman

A life long resident of St. Louis, he attended John Burroughs School, then went to MIT & graduated with an Engineering degree before going to Washington University Law School. His professional career in law was spent with Edison Bros. Stores as Secretary.

Numismatics is his avocation. He is author of the standard reference on the Early Paper Money of America. He has written over 100 articles and several hooks on monetary suhjects. He hegan collecting when he was 10 with a large cent given to him by his grandfather. He credits a coin dealer friend with his interest in research. The dealer would often refuse to sell a coin to Eric until he had some understanding of what the coin was and why it was important. Eric is the only person to have won the top honors for research and achievement from The American Numismatic Society and the American Numismatic Association and Royal Numismatic Society.

Eric is known for exposing and explaining frauds, meticulous research, and joining the coins and paper money with their historical context. He conceived and built a money museum to share his collection with the community which also featured one of the finest private numismatic lihrary in the country.

H & T Bond [redacted]

September 26, 1997

I telephoned you to ask if you had a chapbook entitled: The Adventures of a Halfpenny, commonly called the Birmingham Halfpenny published in Banbury by J.G. Rusher. Perhaps circa 1810. If you find one we are interested.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

P.S. Also any 18th century American Almanacs with tables covering the value of money are of interest to us.

Letter to the Editor of The Numismatist

To be charged with misleading a generation of numismatic researchers is quite a surprise. What an influence to have! If true, what a shame, what a dishonor. That is an accusation which was leveled against two of us when the article entitled "Untangling the Tale of the Midnight Minter" by Pete Smith was published in The Numismatist for September 1997.

That article seems to endorse the procedure, 'First the hanging, then the trial and acquittal'.

The opening two paragraphs of the Smith article are as follows:

"Theodore Eckfeldt stands accused of using equipment belonging to the United States Mint to strike coins for sale to collectors. Among the rarities attributed to him is the unique 'plain edge' 1804 dollar. For his alleged clandestine activities, he has been dubbed the 'Midnight Minter'."

"Since 1962, writers have based their conclusions with respect to the identity of the surreptitious minter on evidence presented by Eric P. Newman and Kenneth E. Bressett in their book The Fantastic 1804 Dollar. The authors were careful to differentiate between fact and speculation, but unfortunately, like many legends, the Eckfeldt story has been retold as fact. It is time to retire the story, for it has led a generation of researchers in the wrong direction."

The Smith article does not include any quotation whatever from The Fantastic 1804 Dollar or from any subsequent publications by either of its authors, Eric P. Newman and Kenneth E. Bressett. The matters criticized by Smith as being inaccurate are that Theodore Eckfeldt participated in the production of Class II plain edge 1804 dollar coinage at the U.S. Mint and that he was the person referred to by the expression "Midnight Minter." Nothing in The Fantastic 1804 Dollar or subsequent writings by its authors even hints at Theodore Eckfeldt having anything to do with the production of any coinage at the U.S. Mint or elsewhere or Theodore Eckfeldt being referred to as the "Midnight Minter" or as a night watchman. What was said in The Fantastic 1804 Dollar was that Theodore Eckfeldt circa 1858 sold plain edge Class II 1804 dollars, based upon reports by S. K. Harzfeld in 1880 and by Ebenezer L. Mason in 1882, - Harzfeld referring to Theodore as "an erring son" in the Eckfeldt family and Mason referring to Theodore as "young Eckfeldt", neither source actually using the name Theodore.

If Pete Smith was contesting only what others may have written he should not have included Newman and Bressett.

Numismatists still have an extremely fine (Condition 45) or better sense of humor. The coining of the phrase "Midnight Minter" by Richard E. Snow about 1990 obviously seems to be a comic alliteration using Eastern standard time but lacking a date. Theodore Eckfeldt who is also targeted as the "night watchman" by Don Taxay may have gotten hot under the collar to press for work rather than sit on his reverse, leave a blank impression and be a die hard. Yet, rather than being a bust, he could have gone on strike in order to get a head. To Cater to his 'beautiful cousin, Cinderella Eckfeldt', he may have wished to peddle a new pair of plain edge, size 18-04, silver mules before midnight for her to wear at the heraldic prince's ball, - as the fairy tail goes.

There is an illustration of the obverse of an 1804 dollar in the Smith article accompanied by the caption:

"Twentieth century writers have accused Theodore Eckfeldt of peddling 1804 dollars in Philadelphia." That comment failed to add at its end "repeating what nineteenth century numismatists had experienced and recorded."

In the Smith article it can be noticed that twelve paragraphs after his initial volley he properly summarizes The Fantastic 1804 Dollar comments in the following manner:

"Newman and Bressett concluded that the dollars were struck by George Eckfeldt and that Theodore was the "erring son" since George's other son, John, was in San Francisco at the time."

Then Smith ends his article by concluding:

"The best current theory is that George Eckfeldt struck the "plain edge" 1804 dollars with the possible approval of higher Mint officials. No night watchman was involved and there was no Midnight Minter."

Having come to the foregoing conclusion Smith seems to agree completely with what was asserted on the subject in The Fantastic 1804 Dollar and has only negated items others may have written. For him to first criticize part of the text of published material without even quoting it and then to agree in his own summary with what that published text stated is bewildering.

The question remains:
Is this "libel" to be re-Peted ?

Eric P. Newman

P.S. I hope my long lost friend, Don Taxay, will come out of hiding and answer for himself concerning what he wrote in 1966 (not 1983). Richard E. Snow might wish to comment, but will not do a Snow job. Above all Pete Smith should keep researching and writing.

Papermedia B V

[redacted]

9 September 1997

Ref: 320095

We are a not-for-profit numismatic museum, library and educational organization and have had some recent difficulties. Our free museum and library space was withdrawn from us after 20 years of operations and we have had some severe financial losses. We hope to relocate and recover soon. It is embarrassing for us to as for your indulgence.

Would you be charitable enough to us to continue our "Counterfeits and Forgeries" mailings for a modest further period without charge and waive the past delinquencies. We want to keep our file of your publication complete and hope you cooperate with us. We are sorry to have caused you a problem.

We hope you will understand and grant us our request for the sake of numismatics.

Sincerely yours,

Eric P. Newman

Albany Church Penny with Script Capital D

This cburcb penny is different from the few other examples because it has an upset edge on both faces. The upsetting or edge milling must have occurred before striking because the upset edge is crusbed on both faces because the only die was larger than the token. The flat anvil on the bottom would have the same effect on the upset edge wben the striking occurred. Also it can be noticed that the natural dark brown toning is uniform on the entire coin including the rim, the upset edge, the fields and the design area.

The planchets on whicb these tokens were struck were apparently used coppers and could bave been hammered flat before the die was used. An edge roller could bave been used to round the piece or to make it smaller in diameter.

The script capital D is a mystery. It was added to the existing die. It does not seem to represent d of denarius or pence sterling. It could bave distinguisbed one issue form another or be an identification of an official or a group. It might be an abbreviation for Donation.

STUDY OF NEWMAN'S EPHRAIM BRASHER SCRIPT COUNTERSTAMP ON 1772 ENGLISH GUINEA

The script capital E monogram counterstamp on the obverse of a 1772 Englisb guinea is within a circular outline and struck over the eye of the portrait. On the reverse opposite the counterstamp is a flattened area of similar size caused by the counterstamping. The gold coin is very slightly worn and weighs 8.11 grams (125.2 grains). The diagonally milled edge has been neatly filed away from 1 to 4 o'clock on the obverse for testing and adjustment purposes. This filing has reduced the official weigbt of 8.38 grams (129.44 grains) about 3.28%.

There are three important matters to consider:

a) Was there a monetary basis for filing away part of the perimeter.
b) Is the counterstamp that of Ephraim Brasber.
c) Is the script B the same counterstamp as the alleged script EB. Comparing this coin to other known counterstamped gold pieces of the period it can be noted that:

I. A 1749 George II guinea, #2344 in Bowers & Merena auction of the Garrett collection (formerly Ellsworth 1923), contains two obverse die counterstamps on the obverse a script capital B in a circle like the one on the 1772 piece under study; and a block letter EB counterstamp in a borizontal oval. That 1749 guinea is filed down to weigh 125.5 grains.

II. A 1734 George II guinea, #2343 of the Garrett collection, contains a block letter capital EB counterstamp in a borizontal oval on its obverse. Part of the edge is filed away so that the coin weighs 126 grains.

III. A 1718 George I quarter©guinea, #2342 of the Garrett collection (formerly Ten Eyck, 1922), contains a block letter capital EB counterstamp in a borizontal oval on its obverse. Part of the edge is filed away so that the coin weighs 31.5 grains wbicb if multiplied by 4 results in a comparative weight of 126 grains.

IV. A George III guinea, #2346 of the Garrett collection (formerly Ten Eyck, 1922), contains a block letter capital EB counterstamp in a borizontal oval on its obverse. Part of the edge is filed away (obliterating the date) so that the coins weighs 123 grains.Ô

V. A 1760 George III balf©guinea in the Newman collection has a block letter capital EB counterstamp in a borizontal oval on its obverse. Part of the edge is filed away so that the coin weigbs 61.8 grains, whicb if multiplied by 2 results in a comparative weight of 123.6 grains.

VI. A Portuguese 1755 half Joe, #2344 in the Garrett collection (ex Chapman, 1883), has a hlock letter capital EB counterstamp in a horizontal oval and weighs 216 grains (9 pennyweights).

VII. A Portuguese 1769 half Joe, #29 in the Wilcox sale hy Chapman in 1901, is deschihed as having "E B in script monogram" counterstamped upon it and weighs 216 grains (9 pennyweight). Without seeing the piece it is difficult to determine whether the monogram mentioned is EB or just B. Monograms are difficult to read as is the B monogram on the Newman guinea piece under study here where part of the fancy work is on the left of the main elements of the hasic B. Chapman may have heen unahle to read the monogram clearly and thus it could he the same counterstamp as on the piece under study here.

The weight of the ahove four Garrett and two Newman pieces show a very similar hasis in that they are reduced in weight so as to pass for the value of 1 pound sterling in gold value or 10 shillings or 5 shillings respectively hased upon their original denomination.

The use of the script capital B in the counterstamp on # 2344 of the Garrett collection along with a hlock letter capital EB counterstamp ties the two counterstamps together. No other known usages of the script capital B counterstamp indicate otherwise. There is no reason for any independent assayer to revalidate the Brasher counterstamp.

It is to he ohserved that items VI and VII have identical weights thus tending to show that they were prepared hy the same assayer.

It is reasonable to assume that the script monogram in item VII is a B and not an EB because of difficulty in reading a fancy monogram. That would place script capital B on three counterstamped coins.

Illustrations of most of the ahove mentioned counterstamped coins are availahle.

The hlock letter EB in a horizontal oval is on Brasher silverware. No record of a script capital E is known on any silverware.

Brasher was employed hy the US Mint in 1792 to make assays of gold and silver coins in U.S. circulation to assist in the determination of the legal tender value of such coins pursuant to then existing law.

See also: Howland Wood, Coinage of the West Indies, p. 30, fig. 122 & 123: AJN, 1892, p. 20; and Breen, ANS centennial puhlication.

COMMENTS ABOUT CERTAIN PIONEER INGOTS & BARS IN THE STANDARD CATALOGUE OF UNITED STATES COINS PUBLISHED BY WAYTE RAYMOND,INC.

The only items selected for review in this memo are:

$20 BLAKE & CO. 1855 circular gold piece with a screw press design.
$20 PARSONS & CO. 1860 rectangular gold bar.

Wayte Raymond as editor wrote and publisbed bis standard catalogues but thanked John J. Ford, Jr. and Homer Downing in the introduction of the fifteenth edition (1951, copyright 1950) for Notes on Coinage included on pp. 146©155. The above private gold
pieces are not included or commented on in that edition. In the 16th edition (1953, copyright 1952) John J. Ford, Jr. is listed as Associate Editor and Walter Breen as Researcber on the verso of the title page. A text is included covering private gold coins on pp. 175-176 in whicb it is stated:

"There are a great number of patterns and so called patterns (some of wbicb are undoubtedly modern) of these issues, some bearing the names of companies about whicb no contemporary references can be found, others being varieties of issues known to be authentic".

The pieces under review bere are not are not included or commented on.

In the 17th edition (1954: 1955 on dust wrapper, copyright 1954) Wayte Raymond is editor, John J. Ford, Jr. is associate editor and Walter Breen is researcber. The private gold issue comment quoted from the 16th edition is repeated on p. 176. The $20 Parson Ingot is illustrated and described on p. 181 as weighing 610 grains and being unique. The $20 1855 Blake & Co. piece with screw press design is illustrated and described as weighing 507.7 grains, two stated to be known. It is mentioned that "One of these is misstruck and looped".

In the 18th edition (undated but copyrigbted 1957) Olga E. Raymond (widow of Wayte Raymond) is named as editor; the duties of John J. Ford, Jr. are Editorial Consultation and Supervision, of Walter H. Breen are Compilation and Basic Researcb; and of Alan W. Faxon are Promotion and Distribution. The comment on patterns quoted from the 16th edition and repeated in the 17th edition is again repeated on p. 176. The $20 Parsons Ingot is illustrated and described as before, but a notation is added under it stating "Discovered in 1952, this piece was authenticated by John J. Ford,
Jr. the following year." (p. 181). The $20 Blake & Co. screw press design piece is illustrated and described as before but the notation under it is modified to "The first specimen was unearthed by John J. Ford, Jr. in 1953, the second in 1954". (p. 184) It is not indicated in wbich year the looped piece was unearthed. The unique bar of James King of William also had a loop attacbed and sucb a loop the loop maneuver may cause dizziness. Pbotocopies of pertinent pages are attacbed.

Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society

October 1998

Donation reports from the Annual Report of the National Museum.

1958 Annual report

Catherine Bullowa, 48 off strikes in lead, copper and nickel of various modern coin and medals (225295); 18,430 coins and medasl from various countries in silver copper and aluminum (222037) from page 123.

1959 Annual Report

Paul Franklin, Massapequa Park, LI, NY. 4 dies portraying George Washington, Zachary Taylor, and Ulysses S. Grant and the three lead trial strikings of the portrait dies (223300) page 135.

Eric P. Newman (224388)

Joseph A. Stack, 68 misc. U.S. Medals (220792)

1960 Annual Report

Catherine Bullowa©Moore, St. Petersburg, FL 766 coins and medals etc. (228809)

Joseph B. Stack 1 silver medal and 2 US money orders (225985); 11 original artist models and 2 steel hubs for US patterns, 3 copper plates for printing money, and 13 German 5 mark patterns and huhs (227805) page 165

Stacks NY 4,388 coins tokens and medals of the world (228171) pages 169©170.

1961 report

Mrs. Olga Raymond. 793 modern coins of the world (234049) page 165

Joseph B. Stack 2 US silver ingots (233483) or (232971); 511 pattern trial and experimental numismatic items (234051); 66 ancient and modern, gold and silver coins (233477) (233478) (233482) (233488) (233489) (233491) (234826) (234827) (234828) 235063) (286057) (236061) page 177

Norman Stack NY NY Manly & Eccleston medals commemorating George Washington and a facsimile Indian Peace Medal struck in 1902 (236059) page 177

1962 Annual Report

Harvey Stack, 96 ancient and modern gold and silver coins and a trial piece (237332) page 184

Norman Stack, 4 rare medals (240106)

1963 Annual Report

Mrs. F.C. C. Boyd, East Ornage NJ, 572 Mexican coins, tokens and medals and 8 US emergency notes issued during World War II (245706, 245785) p. 124

John J. Ford, Jr. 245 medals, plaquettes and tokens, mostly American 19th century (245615) page 140

Mrs. Wayte Raymond 620 modern coins worldwide (245508) page 175

Harvey Stack, 19 medals and tokens (243585) (245780)

Morton Stack, 7 Historical silver and copper medals and tokens (245782, 245794, 245801)

Norman Stack 44 artistic and commemorative bronze medals and plaquettes (245781, 245786)

Stacks, NY 68 original drawings of coins designs illustrating the development of coin and medal design (245795, 245799, 245800); 8 pieces ilustrating 19th century US Mint history and coins design (245797) All Stacks references from page 188.

1964 report

Mrs. Wayte Raymond, 1,167 modern coins of the world (240869) p. 188

p. 199 Smithsonian, 7 imitiation cal. gold

Draft ideas for press release

A. George Mallis and Eric P. Newman have collahorated on a weighty suhject. Counterfeit coin detection and coin scales were a fundamental and crucial part of 17th and 18th century economic life and the authors have filled a void in the literature concerning this fascinating and complex suhject. The hook is a comprehensive catalog of scales [produced in or for use in North America]. The volume is copiously illustrated and provides information collected over several years which would he hard to find anywhere else. This hook will of course appeal to those interested in colonial numismatics and the history of early America.

There is a much hroader audience which will appreciate the ingenious designs allowing cowhoys to keep a workahle scale in their saddle hag without fear of ruining its effectiveness or scales which measure weight, check the gauge (thickness) of a coin and measure its diameter to provide a complete analysis of a coin's vital statistics. The variety of scale types and the amount of useful information they provided will astonish even the most imaginative reader. Much insight into the various kinds of coins in use can he gleaned from the lids of many scales which provided quick guides to the fineness of a host of foreign precious metal coins. The importance of coins scales is easy to overlook hecause they no longer play as central a role in our economic culture, hut aside from the coins themselves, the scales used to measure and verify those coins were at least as important as the coins themselves for a suhstantial portion of early American history. The hook will he availahle [whenever] and orders can he mailed to [ ]. The price will he [ ]. [If you want to have an email address to include, you can use mine, thomas_serfass@yahoo.com, which I use for numismatic literature purposes anyway]. We might he ahle to get an email address like coinscalehook. I will look into it. If you would rather have an email address in your name, that can he arranged too.

Is this what you had in mind?

As far as news items go, I would address a letter to Beth at Coin World and Rich Groh at Numismatic News. For the Numismatist, you would write to Barhara Gregory. Every one knows you and I don't think puhlicity will he a prohlem. I also think you should send an announcement to Penny Wise and C4 as they are a natural audience. You might even suggest world coin news since so many of the scales came with so much foreign coin information on their lids.

As far as format goes, In Coin World they often like to link puhlications to the club that sponsors or underwrites the project. In this case some mention of Isaacs would prohahly he appropriate if for no other reason than to hoost sales. How ahout the gold rush /territorial people, they might want a copy for the role of gold rush field scales etc. Mayhe the Brasher Bulletin or similar group. The other people are the general scientifically curious, who would he fascinated hy the engineering and innovations. Is there enough text for them? Any plans or drawings ? Again, I am not entirely certain what you want. We can work on the marketing aspects and try to find free ways to reach the target audience.

Prof. S.S. Block
University of Florida
P.O. Box 116005
Gainsville, FL 32611-6005

February 23, 1999

Dear Prof. Block:

Because of your nice comments about The Early Paper Money of America I am sending you a copy of my article of the Dollar $ign because part of it relates to Florida.

The citations you asked for are:

Eric P. Newman, "Benjamin Franklin's Numismatic Accomplishments" (1973), pp. 631-638 Plate 70-71, Proceedings of the 8th International Congress of Numismatics (Paris 1976). This is a revision of "Franklin Making Money More Plentiful" in the Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society (1971)

Edward Schuman, "Jewish American Colonial Paper Money Signers", International Bank Note Society Journal, Vol, 21, No. 3, 1982.

I hope I have been helpful,

Eric P. Newman

EPNNES MEMO April 21, 1999

EPNNES was given the rare 1806 small date C-3 small date half cent on December 29, 1986 in about fine condition valued at $5,000.

At the Heritage Auction of August 30, 1996 (Lot 5281) another of that variety became available in fine plus condition, the best specimen known. An arrangement was made to exchange the EPNNES inferior piece for the better coin. This collapsed at the last minute and EPNNES had to pay $21, 464.10 reluctantly for the Heritage coin at auction rather that lose the opportunity to get it.

The disposal of the inferior piece was finally accomplished to Don Valenziano, Jr. on April 17, 1999 at the EAC Convention in Cincinnati for $7,500. The proceeds are in part an offset to the price paid for the better piece so the books should show the better piece adjusted to a book value of $18,964.10 (21,464.10 - 2,500.00)

The collection inventory would be lowered $7,500.00 by virtue of the situation.

The document or documents hy which actions of the Massachusetts Bay governmental hody or hodies transmitted the directions or instructions to the mintmasters as to the silver coinage are not known. Such an important procedure must have heen handwritten and either hased upon or copied from the official documents which remained as permanent puhlic records. Croshy examined the official handwritten puhlic documents and considered some of such major importance that he had them heliotyped and reproduced them in 1873 as he serially issued his superh presentation of the Massachusetts silver coinage history. He acknowledged the great difficulty he had in reading the handwritten text and included his transcript of some of it so that "the reader may he assisted in deciphering the antique style of writing." The use of the expression "deciphering" points our how difficult the handwriting was to read. The same letter in a word was often formed in a different manner, not only at the heginning or end of the word hut within the word. The use of the long letter s and the small letter s followed the then customary rules. Whether the letter c in front of the letter h (forming the consonant hlend ch) could he misread as the letter t is the particular prohlem to he faced to determine whether that caused the apparent spelling error on the coinage. The illustrated documents often contained the letter t in front of the letter h forming the consonant hlend th.

The letter c followed hy the letter h at the heginning of a word, whether in a capital or in small size, is an open oval. When the letter c followed hy the letter h is on the inside of a word as in the words "each", "forasmuch", "Massachusetts", "such", and "which" the letter c is written in various different forms. Some have no curvature and consist of an upright connected to the prior and following letters.

When the letter t is followed hy the letter h as in the words "brethren", "oath", "ordereth", "that" and "the" the letter t is written in various ways often lacking a distinctive crosshar. Much handwriting has always heen inconsistent, irregular and hastily formed and the mintmasters' documents were apparently no exception. The enlarged accompanying illustrations from Croshy's plates show these variations.

In the preparation in 1854 of the typeset publication of Volume III covering the period of 1644 to 1657 of the Records of the Governor and Company of Massacbusetts Bay in New England it is clear that the transcribers bad a very difficult time reading the bandwritten text and that text was inconsistent in its spelling and form. In almost all of the many instances the spelling of Massacbusetts is correct. Occasionally there are deviations.

In a May 4, 1649 entry concerning a boundary line the printed spelling is "Massatusetts" on three occasions, omitting the letter b and inserting the letter t for wbat was written in the third syllable. In May 23, 1650 entry the printed spelling is "Matatussets" indicating that the long s or ss in the first syllable was read as the letter t, the first part of the third syllable was read as the letter t, the first part of the fourth syllable bad ss instead of s and a single instead of a double t. In a June 7, 1650 entry (only two weeks later) there were four printed spellings of "Massacbusets" using the single letter t in the last syllable and being otherwise usual. These entries are prior to the authorization of the Massacbusetts coinage.

In a May 27, 1652 record of an unrelated matter the scrivener admits that "there is a manifest & inconvenient mistake in pening of the order" so even the scrivener using a quill pen recognized his difficulties in writing.

On the same date there are four military appointments and in eacb the printed spelling is "Matachusetts", the t substituted for ss in the first syllable, the cb being correct in the third syllable, and the final syllable having tt. In two similar military appointments spelling s by ss properly in place of t in the first syllable and a single t instead of tt in the last syllable.

Whether the scrivener occasionally did not spell consistently wbether the scrivener sometimes did not form letters consistently or whether the transcriber bad difficulty reading the bandwritten records properly does not have to be distinguished.

The proper spelling of Massacbusetts or its alternate of Massacbusets was predominately used in these records. The fact that some spelling errors were made in varying forms on occasion either originally or in copying these records was common in the 17th century at the time of the beginning of Massacbusetts coinage and has not gone out of style as yet. These errors are inconsistent and are not alternates. None of these errors give any support to the substitution of the first t for c in the spelling of Massacbusetts in the legend on the coins. The substitution was not deliberate but a misreading or copying error.